

Student Advocate: Fighting for your grades

You've just received the paper that you worked six weeks on, spent nights referencing and writing, and twenty dollars on typing. For this effort, you know you deserve an eight or nine. Instead, the Prof has dealt out a mark of six, five or worse. What now?

This is probably the most common academic problem situation. Perhaps because of the sheer numbers involved, there is no set mechanism for appealing an individual mark on an assignment.

Both the faculties and general faculties council have taken the stand that this area is the strict responsibility of the professor, and will refuse to consider any such case unless a "miscarriage of justice" is involved

(ie. you got a failing mark because you are female). Thus, the professor that marked the assignment is the person to approach. Before you do this, however, follow these steps. They may not increase your grade, but they will increase your chances for a successful remark:

1. Cool down. A surprise mark like this will probably get you pretty mad, and this won't help your cause at all. Now is *not* the time to approach the professor - take at least one day between receiving your paper and going to the instructor.

2. Use this time constructively. Analyze your assignment after you are calm, and note the marker's criticisms. There is a chance that arguments in the paper were

unfounded, or that you did go off on a tangent. Find the weak points of the paper, and decide if these were great enough to lower your mark. Find the strong points, and decide if the marker did not give these full consideration!

3. Prepare an argument. You must be able to tell the professor why your paper deserves a better mark in an organized, coherent and simple fashion. Be able to refute any major criticisms made about your work.

4. Make an appointment to see the professor during his or her office hours. This will allow for a definite and private time with the professor, and so is preferred over approaching the instructor for five

minutes after class.

5. Present your arguments, and request that the instructor re-read your paper. Remember that the professor is under no obligation to either read the paper again, or change the mark. If he or she does refuse, or re-reads the paper but does not change the mark, you usually have no further course to follow. You are stuck with that mark.

The key points again are being calm, and presenting an organized argument. This is by no means guaranteed, but it is your most helpful path to follow.

The Student Advocate is at Rm. 272, SUB.

Kelly Palmer

Flocks of Canada geese could cause nuclear warfare

I am worried at the type of cold war television programming that is being carried by local TV stations. The arms race and military tension between the U.S.A. and the U.S.S.R. is a matter that must be looked at with clear and sober thought. Instead of the silly the Russians are coming, the Russians are coming program called W.W. III aired Sunday January 31, on CITV. I think we should have a documentary that would paint a real and clear picture of the drive to nuclear war.

I think the program should start with a quote from James Schlesinger in 1974 to the fact that the U.S.A. could start and enter a nuclear war and possibly win it at the price of 20 to 30 million U.S. dead (leaving aside the hundreds of millions dead in other countries). The present U.S. military policy states that the U.S.A. would actually, after the initial holocaust, have enough residual military power to have military supremacy. Ronald Reagan also has spoken of the feasibility of a nuclear war.

If these were people in a rubber room thinking this we would not have cause to be worried, but these people are heading the United States government and military.

In this documentary the hell-bent path for nuclear war by the U.S.A. should be shown. This path started when the U.S.A. got approval from West Germany (by almost wrenching its arm out of its socket) to deploy Pershing II and cruise missiles in West Germany. But the West German conditions of this agreement were that this approval was *only* given to increase the U.S.A.'s bargaining power and not for the actual deployment. Further more, West Germany made a condition that the U.S.A. must ratify the SALT II treaty and begin talks on the limitation of medium range missiles.

But as history has shown us, the U.S.A. broke agreement by breaking off SALT II talks, and they have gone full steam ahead with the deployment of Pershing II and cruise missiles in West Germany by 1983.

The danger of placing these missiles is not the difference of just more missiles or more qualitatively better missiles. What is most significant is that those missiles are offensive missiles aimed at missile silos and Soviet defense installations. The Pentagon has not even tried to argue that these missiles are defensive. What would the use be of missiles hitting empty missile silos as a deterrent? These missiles are aimed at offensively knocking out U.S.S.R.



missile installations. The Pershing II and cruise missiles will reduce the warning time of 30 minutes as now, to four minutes. That is, Pershing II and cruise missiles will be hitting their targets four minutes after being fired.

In the last two years there have been 145 documented cases of false alarms caused by anything from a flock of geese to a burnt out 75¢ microchip. Some of these alarms ran up to 13 minutes in length before being discovered and stopped.

The Soviet Union has historically kept up with the U.S.A. in the arms race and has

not let itself be behind over any great length of time. To match this latest step the U.S.S.R. would have to station medium range nuclear missiles in Cuba.

What will the pressure be like when you have both countries with only four minutes warning time? Something is going to happen whether it is another 75¢ microchip or a flock of geese.

With the present pressure of world opinion, the U.S.A. does not feel it necessary to enter any arms limitation talks. As was witnessed at Geneva with Haig, the U.S.A. is able to wiggle out of nuclear arms limitation talks by linking them with other political happenings. Today it is Poland. If it were not Poland, it would be Afghanistan. If it were not Afghanistan it would be Cuba, as in the past.

SALT I was signed in the midst of the Vietnam war and everyone knows where the Soviet Union stood on that question. The fact of the matter is that the U.S.A. does not want to enter any arms limitation talks.

And where does the Canadian government stand on this issue? Well, Trudeau has made a few good speeches at the UN special conference on disarmament in 1979 and in his election campaign but has done nothing since. But presently our minister of External Affairs Mr. MacGuigan has supported the plans of deployment of cruise and Pershing II missiles and has agreed to allow U.S. army aircraft armed with nuclear missiles to fly in our air space. This means we will be allowing our air space to be used as a nuclear launching pad against the U.S.S.R. In the event of a war we would be directly involved. Furthermore, with the advent of antiballistic missile weapons many of the U.S. and U.S.S.R. missiles would not be reaching their targets. They would be popping off over our heads. Canada will be right in the middle of W W III.

I believe that peace is too vital and important an issue to be left to generals and

politicians. I really do believe that peace is everybody's business. And peace is everyone's business is the slogan the Canadian Peace Council is using in cross-Canada petition campaign in the hope of getting 1 million signatures to urge the Canadian government to press the United States for an early signing of a Strategic Arms Limitations Treaty, to start talks on limitation of medium-range nuclear weapons, and for actively supporting the convening of a European Conference on Military Detente and Disarmament in Europe, since it is the world's most heavily armed area.

As for the piece of cold war propaganda aired Sunday on CITV, Senator Nino Pasti, a retired high-ranking Nato General puts this into perspective.

"Owing to a strange mental orientation, the West maintains without any in-depth examination that all information from U.S. sources is nothing but the gospel truth. The U.S. intelligence service can calmly - either directly or through the obliging information media of other countries - propagate those news items which are best suited to serve U.S. domestic and foreign policy."

If you are concerned about this current attempt to escalate the nuclear arms race and want to get involved, come to the next meeting of the U of A Group For Nuclear Disarmament, 5 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 11 in Rm. 270A Students Union Building.

John Sharon
Eng III



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Gold Medal Award



Each Spring, the Students' Union awards a student with a Gold Medal for excellence in curricular and non-curricular activities at the University of Alberta during the previous academic year.

Criteria:

- candidates must be in the graduating year of their most recent degree program
- candidates must have a Grade Point Average of at least 7.5 in courses taken two years previous to the graduating year and in the first term of the graduating year
- extra-curricular involvement in University and/or community activities.

Deadline for Applications: Friday, 26 February 1982

Contact the Students' Union Executive Offices for application or nomination forms, and/or for more information (259 Students' Union Building, 432-4236).

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THIS WEEK'S ENTERTAINMENT

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- No cover Mon-Tues
- Wed. is Ladies night & U of A Pub Night (Admission free to U of A students with I.D.)

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